

research or islet transplantation. My legislation attempts to provide an incentive to OPOs by directing CMS to provide credit to OPOs for pancreases retrieved and used for research and islet transplantation.

The second section of this legislation creates a federal inter-agency committee to coordinate efforts in the area of islet transplantation and to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on regulations and policies that would advance this exciting area of research.

The goal of the human clinical trials is to demonstrate success over a longer period of time, and move islet cell transplantation from an experimental procedure to standard therapy covered by insurance and appropriate for all individuals with diabetes. The third section of this legislation directs the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study on clinical outcomes and comprehensive cost-utility analysis that will be important in moving toward this goal.

The fourth section of this bill creates a Medicare demonstration project. A significant percentage of individuals with type I diabetes has kidney failure and becomes Medicare eligible before the age of 65. Insufficient data exists to determine the efficacy of a simultaneous islet-kidney transplant or an islet transplant after a kidney transplant for individuals with type I diabetes. By directing the Secretary of HHS to create a demonstration project to test Medicare coverage for individuals with type I diabetes, we can assess the value of simultaneous islet-kidney transplants or islet transplant after a kidney transplant.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important legislation.

RECOGNITION OF ASHLEY MORGAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ashley Morgan, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 3248, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a Scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote girl Scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold

Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Ashley organized a basketball camp for elementary and middle school girls.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ashley Morgan for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENIE RICE AND CIVITAS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to CIVITAS, Citizens Committed to Improved Neighborhood Life in the Upper East Side and East Harlem on the occasion of their annual benefit. As founding President of CIVITAS, Genie Rice will be honored for her many years of tireless service to CIVITAS and commitment to the community.

Founded in 1981, the first chair, August Heckscher, looked to the Roman Republic for a name that embodies the spirit of citizen involvement that founders envisioned as the guiding principle of the new community organization. In ancient Rome, CIVITAS referred to that quality of a citizen that caused that person to be deeply involved in the life and fate of the city. The members of CIVITAS have dedicated themselves to protecting and enhancing the quality of life in the Upper East Side and East Harlem.

CIVITAS has steadfastly fostered, mobilized and coordinated civic activism in Manhattan's Upper East Side and East Harlem by focusing on promoting, preserving and protecting residential neighborhoods. Currents projects include cosponsoring a remapping of East Harlem with Community Board 11 and tree planting on East 86th Street. Among the issues that CIVITAS has identified as being crucial to ensuring that the community remains lively and livable are: (i) urban planning, including limits on residential towers, coherent zoning, attractive public and private spaces and a reasoned approach to the siting, size and permit use of community facilities; (ii) infrastructure, including good public transit; (iii) the environment, and (iv) landmark preservation.

An effective and dedicated community advocate, Genie Rice has served as CIVITAS President since 1982 and has played a key role in many important projects, including initiation of the remapping of East and Central Harlem. Devoted to the improvement of the community, Ms. Rice organized focus groups with East Harlem property owners to encourage rehabilitation of dilapidated buildings. In 1992, Ms. Rice served as Committee Chair at the New School's Environmental Simulation Center to model and discuss zoning options for East Side Avenues. Ms. Rice worked tenaciously for 8 years in a successful advocacy effort to pass these zoning modifications for Upper East Side avenues and other high-density Manhattan avenues.

When a developer arrogantly added 12 stories to his building, in violation of the zoning law, at 108 E. 96th Street, Genie Rice, CIVITAS and I were at the forefront of the ef-

fort to bring it down. We won a historic decision forcing the developer to remove the 12 stories, the first of its kind in the city. Ms. Rice is an active member of many other community organizations including Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, the 7th Regiment Armory Conservancy and the New York League of Conservation Education Fund.

The many members and friends of CIVITAS have made it an extraordinary and invaluable community organization. I am proud of my involvement as a member of CIVITAS. CIVITAS's contributions over the years have truly preserved the quality of life of Upper East Side and East Harlem residents.

In recognition of these outstanding contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring CIVITAS and Ms. Genie Rice on the occasion of their annual benefit reception.

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AOPA FOR AIRPORT WATCH

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to commend the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's (AOPA) for its contribution to the Airport Watch Program.

General aviation and private pilots have a proud and patriotic history of working to keep America secure. During the Second World War, private pilots in the Civil Air Patrol were our eyes in the sky, watching over our coasts for Nazi U-boats and patrolling our borders for enemy saboteurs. As we fight this new war on terrorism, we must remember general aviation's proud history. We must make sure to employ the GA community as an ally, not to treat it with suspicion.

The Airport Watch Program is contemporary example of general aviation working to keep this country secure. The Airport Watch Program is a collaborative effort between AOPA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to enhance security at our Nation's 5,400 public use airports. Airport Watch will enlist the help of those most familiar with airports and pilots to be our eyes and ears. Modeled after the highly successful neighborhood watch programs, Airport Watch will enlist the help of the more than 550,000 general aviation pilots by giving every pilot an important role to monitor community airports.

Airport Watch also encourages pilots to report any suspicious airport activity to a TSA-sponsored toll free hotline (1-866-GA Secure) staffed by the federal government's National Response Center. Additionally, the program includes warning signs for airports, informational literature, and training videotapes to educate pilots and airport employees on how security of their airports and aircraft can be enhanced.

This groundbreaking program is just one example of AOPA's leadership in promoting national security while preserving freedom of the skies. Further, this partnership between government and private citizens represents what can be achieved when we work together to address the security of the homeland.

Again, I want to commend the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association for designing this

proactive security program. I strongly support this resolution and urge its approval.

INTRODUCTION OF SECURING CONSUMERS' ASSURANCE IN MOVING ACT OF 2003

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Securing Consumers' Assurance in Moving Act of 2003 (the SCAM Act) in order to put more cops on the beat in policing the interstate household goods industry and to provide more information for consumers facing an interstate move.

While the vast and overwhelming majority of moving companies operate in a fair, open and honest way, I am sure all Members are aware of the increasing problem with so-called "rogue" movers who prey upon consumers. Since the ICC was abolished in 1996, there have been fewer resources available for consumer protection enforcement at the Department of Transportation which now oversees the moving industry. Over the course of the last several years, this issue has been the subject of hearings and continuing oversight by the Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, and I believe it is now time to act.

We have all heard the horror stories of moves gone wrong. One of the most egregious practices is the "hostage goods" situation, where a mover low-balls an estimate, loads the consumer's goods onto his truck, drives off, and then refuses to deliver the goods until paid an amount in cash that can be up to 4 or 5 times the amount of the original estimate—in strict violation of Federal regulation. I have heard from some who have gone months without knowing where their goods are located. And yet there is little the consumer can do.

A major issue which has emerged is the authority of states to take action, since various courts have ruled that they have no jurisdiction over interstate moves—citing primarily the Carmack amendment. This policy was enacted in 1906 and simply sets forth a uniform liability scheme for loss and damage to avoid uncertainties over differing state laws.

A lot has changed since 1906 and Congress has never really had a debate on what role states or individuals should have regarding consumer protection and the moving industry. I understand that the moving industry has concerns regarding the application of consumer protection laws, claiming that it will be difficult to operate with 50 different state laws. However, states have been enforcing consumer protection laws—which are aimed at those businesses engaged in fraud and deceptive practices—for many years now and somehow other businesses which are not exempt have survived and thrived.

Certainly within the trucking industry, the movement of an individual's household goods is unique from commercial shipments. A consumer may utilize a moving company once or twice in a lifetime and entrusts virtually all his worldly goods to a mover—which gives a lot of leverage to the moving company. Although the President has requested funds for another 7

personnel to oversee household goods, I believe it will never be possible for the federal government to provide adequate oversight over those who take advantage of consumers—it is more appropriate that the states also be able to get involved against those who operate now with near immunity from effective oversight.

The bill I am introducing has three major goals—allowing for Federal-State partnerships to enhance enforcement; establishing new fines for certain behavior; and increasing opportunities for consumer education for those contemplating a move.

Specifically, the bill would: Clarify that an individual or states can use consumer protection laws against interstate movers; require DOT to establish a working group of state attorneys general, consumer protection administrators and law enforcement to coordinate information and enforcement efforts; require DOT to establish a database of consumer complaints with a procedure for public access to the database; require DOT to review current federal regulations regarding insurance coverage and determine whether revisions are necessary to provide adequate protection to consumers; establish a civil penalty of \$10,000 and potential 6-month suspension of operating authority, and create criminal penalties, for movers who hold goods hostage in violation of the 110 % rule; create a \$25,000 civil penalty for brokers or movers operating without authority; and establish a \$10,000 civil penalty for a broker who provides an estimate before entering into an agreement with a carrier; require that movers and brokers include additional information regarding DOT registration numbers, consumer rights and responsibilities, and broker-carrier relationships on Web sites; and increase disclosure requirements for brokers who arrange for the shipment of household goods.

Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate but necessary step that I am taking today in introducing this legislation. For too long the scales have been tipped in favor of those few within the moving industry who abuse consumers—it is time to even the scales.

RECOGNITION OF RACHEL NEWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Rachel Newell, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 472, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include, 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration, 2. Earning the Career Exploration Pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip, 3. Earning the senior Girl Scout Leadership

Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills, 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting, and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award Project, Rachel refurbished and painted a playground.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Rachel Newell for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PARTHENON CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF AHEPA (AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Andreas T. Stamboulidis Parthenon Chapter of the Order of AHEPA on the occasion of their annual dinner dance. For their extraordinary service and commitment to the community, Senator Frank Padavan, James Efthimiades, Stephen Cherpelis and George Doulaveris will be honored. They are truly "Axie", worthy of this honor.

Established to fight prejudice and racism, AHEPA is philanthropic organization that has been serving the Hellenic community since its inception 80 years ago. The many dedicated members of AHEPA have provided the community with an understanding of the Hellenic heritage and an awareness of its contribution to the evolution of democratic ideals in the United States and Greece.

AHEPA's many contributions to the community include the establishment of educational scholarships, relief drives to aid the victims of warfare, persecution and national disaster, sponsorship of sports tournaments, support for women and children, the elderly, and the disabled. Through all of their community outreach efforts, AHEPA has striven to promote appreciation of Greek culture and further advance understanding between the Hellenic-American, American and the Hellenic community abroad.

The Andreas T. Stamboulidis Parthenon Chapter is exemplary of the AHEPA objective. Founded by the late Andrew Stamboulidis twenty-two years ago, the Parthenon Chapter has raised and contributed over \$35,000 toward the Holy Cross School and Community Center. For the Parthenon Chapter's extraordinary support of the school, one of the classrooms is named after founder Andreas T. Stamboulidis. Mr. Stamboulidis typified the ideals and aspirations of AHEPA.

It is a true pleasure to honor this chapter and its members, including Theodore Stamas and my good friend Manny Mavroidis. As the founder and co-chairperson of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress it has been my pleasure and honor to work with many of the members of AHEPA. Since its inception, the Parthenon